Fortifications Appropriations.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I move that the Senate proceed to the consideration of House bill 15979, the fortifications appropriations bill.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. FLETCHER. I ask the Senator from Alabama to lay the bill aside in order that I may get action on the conference report upon the river and harbor bill.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I am willing to do that. I ask unanimous consent that the fortification bill may be temporarily laid aside.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection?

Mr. JONES of Washington. Mr. President, I feel that I have to the House, the conferees on the part of the Senate to be appointed by the Chair.

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. President, the conference report has been read through. I think this is a step in the right direction. I think this is a step in the right direction. I think it was only read down to the first amendment.

Mr. SMOOT. I think it was only read down to the first amendment.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator is correct. The Senate will resume the reading of the conference report.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Secretary will resume the reading of the conference report, as follows:

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 42, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment strike out the words 'appropriated for,' and insert in lieu thereof the numeral '$347,000'; and the Senate agree to the same."

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 52, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment strike out the words 'appropriated for,' and insert in lieu thereof the numeral '$337,000'; and the Senate agree to the same."

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 54, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment strike out the words 'appropriated for,' and insert in lieu thereof the numeral '$1,733,000'; and the Senate agree to the same."

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 68, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: At the end of the proposed amendment add the word 'Harbor'; and the Senate agree to the same."

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 77, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: At the end of the proposed amendment add the word 'Harbor'; and the Senate agree to the same."

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 91, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment strike out the words 'appropriated for,' and insert in lieu thereof the numeral '$347,000'; and the Senate agree to the same."

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Secretary will resume the reading of the conference report, as follows:

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 92, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment strike out the words 'appropriated for,' and insert in lieu thereof the numeral '$337,000'; and the Senate agree to the same."

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 94, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment strike out the words 'appropriated for,' and insert in lieu thereof the numeral '$1,733,000'; and the Senate agree to the same."

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 40, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment strike out the words 'appropriated for,' and insert in lieu thereof the numeral '$347,000'; and the Senate agree to the same."

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"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 77, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: At the end of the proposed amendment add the word 'Harbor'; and the Senate agree to the same."

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"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 40, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment strike out the words 'appropriated for,' and insert in lieu thereof the numeral '$347,000'; and the Senate agree to the same."

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 52, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment strike out the words 'appropriated for,' and insert in lieu thereof the numeral '$337,000'; and the Senate agree to the same."

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"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 40, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment strike out the words 'appropriated for,' and insert in lieu thereof the numeral '$347,000'; and the Senate agree to the same.

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"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 54, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In the proposed amendment strike out the words 'appropriated for,' and insert in lieu thereof the numeral '$1,733,000'; and the Senate agree to the same.

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 68, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: At the end of the proposed amendment add the word 'Harbor'; and the Senate agree to the same.

"That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 77, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: At the end of the proposed amendment add the word 'Harbor'; and the Senate agree to the same.
Mr. UNDERWOOD. I ask that the amendment be passed over until the reading of the bill shall have been concluded.

Mr. JONES of Washington. The Senator from Massachusetts may be here by that time, as I have sent for him.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the amendment will be passed over.

The reading of the bill was resumed, and continued to the end of line 16, on page 4, the last clause read being as follows:

"PROVING GROUNDS."

For current expenses of the ordnance proving grounds, comprising the maintenance of rail and water transportation, repairs, alterations, and service of engines, and service of horses on the rail and harbor lines, and for the purchase or manufacture of ordnance and ordnance material, $125,000, to be spent at the discretion of the General in charge of the ordnance proving grounds.

Mr. KING. I ask the Senator having this bill in charge if in a former appropriation bill there was not a large sum appropriated for the purchase of proving grounds? As I read this bill, there are proving grounds to be authorized.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. There have been large sums appropriated for this purpose, but this is to carry out a part of the plan heretofore adopted. This bill has not been an annual bill heretofore, but it is sought to make it an annual bill now.

Mr. KING. I should like to ask the Senator whether this bill contemplates the purchase of additional proving grounds or that it is merely in harmony with plans heretofore adopted in previous bills and not carrying out any new plan?

Mr. UNDERWOOD. It is in harmony with plans adopted in previous bills.

The reading of the bill was resumed.

The next amendment of the Committee on Appropriations was, under the head of "Fortifications in insular possessions," substitute for the first clause of section 3, in the conference report, after the words "$125,000," "$140,000," so as to make the clause read:

"Provided, That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment which was passed over.

The next amendment was, under the head of "Panama Canal fortifications," on page 12, after line 17, to insert:

"SEC. 8. That no part of the moneys appropriated in any or each section of this act shall be used or expended for the purchase or manufacture of any article or articles at the time of the proposed acquirement can be manufactured or produced in any or any of the Government arsenals of the United States for a sum less than it can be purchased or procured otherwise.

Mr. WEEKS. Mr. President, I hope that section 8, which has just been read by the Secretary, will not be agreed to. In my judgment it is bad public policy to put such a provision as that in the bill. If we had attempted before this war to manufacture all the requirements in a military way for the Government at the Government arsenals we would not have done anything like as well as we have done, that has been due to the superiority in manufacture and other necessities for war purposes. Such a provision, too, involves the whole question of the bookkeeping system. It may not be a constant provision, but if an article can be manufactured cheaper or as cheap or not as cheap at Government arsenals if such a provision be incorporated in the bill, and I hope the amendment will be rejected.

Mr. KENYON. Mr. President, if the committee is determined to allow this amendment to go out of the bill, which they have put in, I am powerless; but I should like to say that a similar provision has been placed in a number of bills, and is in the Army bill, as I understand.

Mr. WEEKS. I think it has been stricken out of that bill.

Mr. KENYON. If these articles can be made cheaper in arsenals cheaper than they can outside, then the Government may go ahead and purchase them outside. So, I do not see how the argument of the Senator from Massachusetts is sound. If, in fact, we can produce all we need in the Government arsenals—and there are great arsenals in this country now that can do more than they are doing, and can produce the articles cheaper than can be done by the private parties—why should we not do it? That is the principle which this amendment is designed to initiate.

I am not going to take any further time on the question, but will let the Senate vote.

"The VICE PRESIDENT. The question is on the amendment reported by the committee.

On a division, the amendment was agreed to.

The reading of the bill was concluded.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senate will consider the amendment which was passed over.